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Zweigstelle in Den Haag Recherchen-abteilung	Branch at The Hague Search division	Département à La Haye Division de la recherche

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Zeichen/Ref./Réf.	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.
CFG 2818 EP	01113002.8-2102-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

[X] Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

[X] abstract [X] title

[ ] The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

EUROPÄISCHES PATENTAMT - EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE - OFFICE EUROPÉEN DES BREVETS - DEN HAAG - THE HAGUE - LA HAYE

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.

European Patent Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Application Number EP 01 11 3002

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 831 135 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 25 March 1998 (1998-03-25) * page 8, line 10-35 * * page 8, line 50 - page 9, line 9 * Examples	1,2,4,6, 22,24, 25,29, 30,38	C09D11/00
X	US 4 533 920 A (SUZUKI EIICHI) 6 August 1985 (1985-08-06) * column 2, line 48-66 * * column 3, line 8-11 * * examples 1-3 *	1,2,4-6, 22	
X	EP 0 962 324 A (CANON KK) 8 December 1999 (1999-12-08) * paragraph '0060! * * claims 4,5,12-28 *	1,2,4, 24,25, 29,30,38	
	-/--		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) C09D

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.

Claims searched completely :

Claims searched incompletely :

Claims not searched :

Reason for the limitation of the search:

see sheet C

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	5 September 2001	Miller, A

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C07)

European Patent Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 11 3002

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 833 743 A (ELWAKIL HAMDY A) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) * column 4, line 16-60; table I * * column 6, line 27 - column 7, line 18 * * column 8, line 54 - column 9, line 6 * ---	1,2,4,5, 24,25, 29,30,38	
A	US 5 980 623 A (CHUJO AKIHIKO ET AL) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09) * column 19, line 50 - column 42, line 40 * ---	14,17, 26,31	
A,D	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199026 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class G05, AN 1990-196118 XP002176757 & JP 02 127482 A (CANON KK), 16 May 1990 (1990-05-16) * abstract * -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C10)

European Patent Office

INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number
EP 01 11 3002

Claim(s) searched completely:
14-20,22,23,26,27,31-34, 36-38

Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-13,21,24,25,28,29,30,35

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Present claims 1-13, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 35 relate to a product defined by reference to the following parameter(s):
P1: degree of fading of an image produced with one ink is the same or lower than the degree of fading of an image produce by the other ink.
P2: residual rate of reflection density of one ink is equal or greater than that of an image produce with the other ink.
The use of these parameters in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 84 EPC. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to:
an ink set comprising a first aqueous ink and a second aqueous ink having the same color tone, wherein the first ink and the second ink contain at least one common coloring material, the second ink has a lower coloring material content than the coloring material content of the first ink.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 01 11 3002

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

05-09-2001

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